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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Manti-La Sal
National Forest

Ferron/Price Ranger District
Ferron Work Center
115 West Canyon Road
P.O. Box 310
Ferron, UT 84523
Phone # (435) 384-2372
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File Code: 2820-4
Date: July 7, 2005

Wayne Hedberg
Permit Supervisor
Division of Oil, Gas and Mining
1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210
P.O. Box 145801
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

RECEIVED

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

Dear Wayne:

I am sending you a compact disc (CD) with inspection reports and photographs from the Pines/Muddy area and Starpoint Springs on the Manti-La Sal National Forest. This is for the purpose of information-sharing between our agencies.

For additional information, please contact Tom Lloyd (435 636-3596), Manti-La Sal National Forest, 115 West Canyon Road, P.O. Box 310, Ferron, Utah, 84523.

Sincerely,

MESIA NYMAN
District Ranger



Lannce Sudweeks 5/11/05

On Tuesday May 10 I went to the Emery allotment to check the condition of the range and Range improvements, the grass was just starting to “green up” brome was between 2 to 5 inches tall and the poa was only about an inch tall. The road was still damp but not muddy. The first improvement I inspected was ‘Verdus Pond” It still had a small snowbank on its west side (see Picture #1) and a small puddle of water in the bottom but just east of center there is a large crack in the bottom (see Picture 2-6) and there is evidence of large amounts of water flowing into the crack instead of being stored in the pond. (see picture 7) Directly south of Verdus pond and across the road there was a puddle of water approximately 12 feet across and 4-6 inches deep.(see picture 8) This tells me that there would have been more water in the pond if it did not have the crack in the bottom.

I then traveled to Box Pond and pleasantly surprised to find it near full (see picture 9) but upon closer inspection I found it had receded about 3 feet this spring.(see picture 10) there are no cattle on the allotment at this time and little elk sign near the pond and with temps as low as they have been I see no reason why the water would be receding unless there is a crack in the bottom.

From Box Pond I traveled south/southeast to Johnson Pond. I have never seen water in this pond until now but I have never been there this early in the year. It is also receding rapidly without any use from livestock. And there is no evidence of water flowing away from the pond. The Johnson Pond Dam is showing some major erosion on the back side but it was difficult to tell if it was from water or animals.(see Picture 11)

After leaving Johnson Pond I drove back to the main road and turned south then west to a pond that is located just north of the main road. It has a large dam and should have a lot of water in it but there was none. However the bottom was very muddy indicating that there had been water recently. (see picture 12) note the obvious high water mark in the grass on the banks of the pond

I also noted that the pond that is approx 1 mi. directly west of Box Pond is completely full (see picture 13) and there was a lot of standing water in the flats southwest of Box pond. (see picture 14)

I then traveled back toward “The Pines” and stopped at Slab Pond it was very dry and there was little evidence that any water had even reached it. I walked around the edges of the pond and found several major cracks in the surface, perhaps they have stopped the water from reaching the pond. (see picture 15-17)

Lannce Sudweeks
Rangeland Management Specialist

/s/



Picture # 1 taken 5_10_05 Snowbank and water in verdus pond



Picture 2 taken 5_10_05 water and mud trail from water running into crack in bottom of Verdus pond.



picture 3 taken 5_10_05 Crack in Verdus Pond



picture 4 taken 5_10_05 Crack in Verdus Pond



Picture 5 taken 5_10_05 muddy area leading to crack in Verdus Pond



picture 6 taken 5_10_05 Crack in bottom of verdus pond



Picture 7 taken 5_10_05 evidence of high water amounts flowing into crack in Verdus Pond



Picture 8 taken 5_10_05 standing water across road south of Verdus Pond



Picture 9 taken 5_10_05 Box pond



Picture 10 taken 5_10_05 High water mark showing that water level is receding rapidly



Picture 10 taken 5_10_05 Johnson Pond note large muddy area around outside edge of water. Water seems to be disappearing.



Picture 11 taken 5_10_05 erosion of back of Johnson pond dam



Picture 12 taken 5_10_05 Pond near quitchapah canyon on north side of main road. Empty, but bottom is muddy note high water mark about half-way up dam



Picture 13 taken 5_10_05 pond approximately 1 mi. west of Box Pond.



Picture 14 standing water in flat southwest of Box Pond



Picture 15 taken 5_10_05 slab pond dry!!



Picture 16 and 17 (below) crack in surface south of slab pond



[illegible]



Starpoint Spring – water flowing into pipe



Starpoint Spring drainage



Starpoint Spring – old pole fence



Starpoint Spring – fill slope above spring



Starpoint Spring – water ponding in dug-out spring depression